

REMARKS

Claims 17, 18, and 20-23 were pending and under consideration in the above-identified application and were rejected. Claims 1-16, 19, 26 and 27 were cancelled previously and remain cancelled. However, claims 24 and 25 were found to be allowable.

With this Amendment, claims 21-24 are amended and claims 17 and 18 have been cancelled.

I. Allowable Subject Matter

As acknowledged by the Examiner in the November 26, 2008, Office Action, claims 24 and 25 contain allowable subject matter. Claims 24 and 25 have been amended to address issues presented by the recent decision of the Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit in *In re Bilski*. No new matter has been added. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 24 and 25 are allowable over the cited art and are ready to proceed to issuance.

II. 35 U.S.C. § 101

Claim 17, 18 and 20-23 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101.

With this amendment, claims 17-20 have been cancelled. Therefore, the rejection is moot as to claims 17-20. Further, claims 21-23 have been made dependant on allowable claim 24. Therefore, claims 21-23 are allowable as well because they depend, either directly or indirectly, from an allowable claim.

III. Conclusion

In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicant submits that all claims are clearly allowable over the cited prior art, and respectfully requests early and favorable notification to that effect.

Respectfully submitted,

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